

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

PLAINFIELD—Applications for Plainfield's 1998 SYCTP summer youth jobs program will be available through June 10th. This program is for more 14-21 only. Call Pat Boone at PWD Action Services 908-753-3518.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

JERSEY CITY—Come share a discussion on "Health, Success and Social Change" at 7 p.m. at the Miller Branch Library. 201-547-8907.

OAHLURST—The Board of Directors of Family and Children's Service invites you to attend its 97th Annual Meeting and reception from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Family Children's Service Center, 732-531-9111, ext. 303.

GARWOOD—Encouraging Our Daughters in Math and Sciences will be presented by Tana Wright at the Westfield Municipal Bldg. at 7:30 p.m. 908-232-5787.

BURKELEY HEIGHTS—The Volunteer Guild of RUMFELS Specialized Hospital of Union County will hold its monthly product sale featuring 14K gold and sterling silver chains and more from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of the facility. 908-771-5848.

FRIDAY, MAY 22

NEWARK—The African American Heritage Parade and Festival kicks off with a concert by the superstar Caribbean reggae band Pentakali at 6 p.m. in Weequahic Park. 973-932-6794

BRIGGSSTOWN—The Plainfield Area Ebony Police Association will have its 3rd Annual Golf Tournament starting at 8 a.m. at the Bunker Hill Golf Club. 908-359-6335.

SATURDAY, MAY 23

PLAINFIELD—Donald Williams' 13th Annual Antique and Quilted Car Show will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on West Point Street. Don't miss it! 908-752-9451.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

NEW BRUNSWICK—The NJ State Bar Foundation will present a free public conference on "Seniors in the 21st Century" will be featured in recognition of Senior Citizens Law Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the NJ Law Center (off

THURSDAY, MAY 28

NEW BRUNSWICK—A free, public conference on "Seniors in the 21st Century" will be featured in recognition of Senior Citizens Law Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the NJ Law Center (off

Send events to: CN Community Calendar, P.O. Box 1774, Plainfield, N.J. 07060 or FAX to: 908-753-1036

Rydens Lane). For more info, call 1-800-FREE-LAW.

NEW YORK—The Whitney Museum presents "Unknown Terrain," the first major New York exhibition of Andrew Wyeth's work. For more info, call 212-570-3633.

SCOTCH PLAINS—"How to Deal with Oppositional Behavior: What to do when your child refuses" will be the topic of a program sponsored by the Mothers' Center of Central New Jersey at 8 p.m. at the Scotch Plains Library.

FRIDAY, MAY 31

MONTCLAIR—Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.'s Montclair chapter, is sponsoring a Walk-A-Thon for Sickle Cell Disease at 11 a.m. in Nuttane Park on the corner of Cedar Avenue and High Street in Montclair. 973-325-6388.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13TH

NEW YORK—The 22nd annual American Crafts Festival at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts through June 14th. For more info, call 973-745-0091.

MONDAY, JUNE 22

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Area YMCA has begun registration for The Summer Fun Club which runs through August 21st. Campers report to the 7, 518 Watchung Ave., Mon. - Fri. at 7:30 a.m. and can be picked up at 6:30 promptly. 908-756-6060.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

NEW BRUNSWICK—The New Brunswick NAACP area branch 25th Annual Freedom Fund Dinner will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at 6:30 p.m. 732-422-6535.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

PISCATAWAY—Circle Players host Community Theater Cruise to The Caribbean via Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines through July 4th. For more info, call 732-966-7555.

MONDAY, JUNE 29

TRENTON—The Thomas C. Stedekewald Memorial Golf Classic of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation will be held at 11:30 a.m. at the Trenton Country Club. For more info, call 609-984-4839.

FRIDAY, JULY 10

NEW YORK—The 1998 Mobil African American Women on Tour will be in New York for a Black women's empowerment conference. For location and time, please call 619-560-2770.

Blacks in Energy elect John Smith to board



NEWARK—In the April 8 issue, a story regarding the election of John R. Smith to the National board of directors of the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) ran with the wrong photo. We regret the error. Smith is Manager-Strategic public affairs at Public Service Electric and Gas (PSEG) Company. AABE is a national association of energy professionals founded and dedicated to ensure the input of African Americans and minorities into the discussion and development of energy policies, research and development technologies and environmental issues in the United States.

100 Most Influential



Special Honoree Jane Kenney, New Jersey Commissioner of Community Affairs, with Dr. Henry Johnson, publisher of City News

Continued from page 1

ing with the Plainfield-based newspaper, Plainfield Today, and expanding it into the current City News, along with their other publications, Minority Business-Youth and Minority Business-Youth Directory, and the YES—Youth Exited about Success publication and program.

The honorees were selected from a wide range of endeavors of civil rights, corporate community involvement, community service, community development, economic development, education, politics, law & government, minority business enterprise, religion, health, science & technology, entertainment and sports, and media, arts & culture.

Platinum Corporate Presenters Awards, recognizing their financial and personal commitments to the urban communities, were given to AT&T, Bell Atlantic, Chase Manhattan Bank, and Fleet Bank.

Charlene Brown, Vice President for Corporate Affairs received the award for AT&T. In an interview afterwards she commented, "It was just a wonderful celebration honoring our community support and recognizing the spirit of our community." As a human interest note, Maurice Brown, received the award for Bell Atlantic, and he, humorously referred to his sister Charlene, as working for "the other company." John Leonard and Chan Peterson received the awards for Chase Bank and Fleet Bank, respectively.

The 100 Most Influential of 1998 in



Heritage Parade holds appreciation awards

NEWARK—The African American heritage Parade Committee recently held an Appreciation Awards ceremony at New Jersey Performing Arts Center to kick off its 20th Anniversary of the African American heritage Parade/Festival. Accepting an award for Corporate Contribution and Community Service was Karen L. Clark, at center, chairperson of managed Healthcare Systems Health Plan of New Jersey (MHS). Pictured with Ms. Clark are Donald Bernard, Sr., Chairman of the Parade Committee; and Howard Scott, EMCO Plastic. The Parade/Cultural Festival will be held on Friday, May 22-25 at Weequahic Park in Newark. MHS is a community-oriented managed health care company serving Medicaid recipients in the State of New Jersey.



Dr. and Mrs. Henry Johnson present special honoree Paula Madison, Vice President/News Director for NBC 4, with plaque.

Al Koeppe, senior vice-president, PSEG, gave remarks. PSEG was co-sponsor of the event.

similar areas of service, were introduced to the audience through a video vignette of their personal achievements and contribution, and were then asked to stand and be applauded by the audience.

It was clearly evident in interviews after the ceremony that the honorees were quite humbled by, and deeply appreciative of the recognition. Aubrey Lewis, Chairman of the Board of the Sports Hall of Fame, said, "I am honored and I don't deserve to be here, but I certainly appreciate this recognition." Similarly, Dr. Yvelvet G. Miller, Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey State Department of Human Services, remarked, "I am tickled, humbled and honored, and don't know what to say, but it is a rise to be honored by your own

Honoree Ron Wasson, vice president, Dun & Bradstreet, gave remarks for co-sponsor D&B

for these reasons." Ronald Bower, a New Jersey Sports and Recreation Authority commissioner, and Vice President, Dun and Bradstreet, said, "The partnering between public and private benefits the community, and I always tried to help on both sides in both parties."

Dr. Johnson in summarizing the event, said, "The most important aspect of the award festivities is that we create an atmosphere that supports a sense of collaboration among individuals who share similar goals, to foster the progress of black people and to help rebuild New Jersey's urban Communities." Concluding he remarked, "It is for this reason that we are proud of all the people who have joined in this partnership to stimulate renewed interest in our cities."

Many of the 1996 and 1997 honorees attended and congratulated and shared this special occasion with this year's recipients. Hamilton Bowers, President of Evanbow Construction Company and Carl Brooks, GPU Senior Vice President for Finance, both 1996 honorees, agreed that this is a marvelous effort and commended the Johnsons on their commitment and dedication.

In addition to the corporate co-hosts, Dunn & Bradstreet and PSEG, the Awards Ceremony was sponsored by AT&T, Bell Atlantic, Chase Manhattan Bank, Fleet Bank, ConStates Bank, GPU Energy/Hechtie Marlon Russell, Prudential, MetLife, Sunami Bank, Saint Barnabas Health Care System, Continental Airlines, Schering-Plough, Blue Cross-Blue Shield of New Jersey, CARLEVISION, Radio Stations WLIB and WBLS, Bally's Park Place, Redford, DeLoane & Toole, L.F.I. PNC Bank, United National Bank, Anheuser-Busch Newark Brewery, Brantley Brothers Moving & Storage, City National Bank, David Lerner Associates, Investors Savings Bank, Pepsi Cola Company, Selective Staffing New York New Jersey, Time Warner, and University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

DR. CLARKE SURVIVES DAUGHTER'S TAKEOVER

NEW YORK (NNPA)—A petition brought by Nzingha Clarke, the 33-year-old daughter of eminent historian Dr. John Henry Clarke, has been dismissed by the Supreme Court of the State of New York.

Nzingha Clarke had sought to have the court appoint an individual to be the "personal and financial property management guardian for Dr. Clarke," who is cited in her petition as "an alleged incapacitated person."

Not only did Supreme Court Justice Siskar throw out the petition, he went on to praise Dr. Clarke, 83, his wife Sybil Williams-Clarke and their supporters who filed the court.

GM NOW PLANS TO INVESTIGATE DISCRIMINATION

DETROIT—General Motors is conducting an internal probe of its Minority Dealer Development Program, spokespersons for the world's largest corporation have confirmed.

GM has also replaced the long-time head of the Minority Program in the wake of this internal probe. Widespread allegations of systemic discrimination against participants in the Minority Program prompted this previously secret internal probe, GM spokespersons said.

GM initiated the Minority Dealer Program 25 years ago to increase the number of minority owned automotive dealerships. Yet currently, blacks own 1.3 percent of GM's 8,000-plus auto dealerships nationwide.

"The entire Program is involved in this review," GM spokesperson Marsha McGee said last week.

"When allegations are made, we take them very seriously," McGee added. "Any company would be remiss not to examine things said about it. I hate to think that allegations of race discrimination would not be examined."

JUDGE DISMISSES SUIT AGAINST DETROIT FREE PRESS

DETROIT (AP)—A federal judge has dismissed a \$100 million lawsuit filed against the Detroit Free Press by a suspended judge accused of making racial slurs in taped conversations.

The tapes were released in February 1997 by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Andrew Ferraro's former husband, Howard Tarjiff. The court later suspended him. Ferraro with pay and the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission began an investigation.

Ms. Ferraro sued Tarjiff, the Free Press and reporter David Ambrosini in March 1997 after the newspaper published a story about the taped talks.

U.S. District Judge Patrick Duggan said Ms. Ferraro never presented evidence to back her contention against the Free Press that Tarjiff had reason to know that Tarjiff might have recorded their conversations to extort concessions in the couple's legal disputes.

'SOUL GONE HOME': EVEN A REDNECK SAYS GOODBYE TO CLEAVER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Black Panthers, Christian preachers and even a "redneck" funeral-casserole told mourners Saturday how militant-turned-missionary Eldridge Cleaver changed minds and lives.

Cleaver, author of "Soul On Ice" and one-time information minister of the militant Black Panthers, died May 1 at age 62. His essays on fighting racism, written in prison, became a gospel for the black power movement in the 1960s and 1970s.

"We are all gathered here to remember a king, a lion," said Cleaver's daughter, who was born abroad to her fugitive father. Cleaver left the country in 1968 after he was arrested after a shootout in Oakland that left 17-year-old Panther treasurer Bobby Hutton dead and two police officers wounded.

"He wanted to include, not exclude," said Chaka Forman, who read a poem entitled "Soul Gone Home."

The service included an unscheduled speaker, Ted Prastak of Baltimore. USers tensed as Prastak strode up the aisle and said in a nasal drawl he "want to pay tribute to my brother."

After a few uneasy seconds, he was asked to take the pulpit.

The 67-year-old white retiree said he was on the verge of suicide in 1976 when he saw Cleaver on a TV talk show telling about his conversion to Christianity. He was inspired to turn his life around.

"It was one of those rednecks," Prastak said. "I used to be full of hate. But I came all the way from Baltimore, 2,400 miles, to pay tribute to my brother... he saved my soul, and he saved my life."

The congregation cheered.

I want to see people of their race on television

By Jane E. Allen
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—American children say it's important to see people of their own race on television, and while blacks, Hispanics and Asians are portrayed more negatively than whites, according to a first-ever study through youngsters' eyes.

Asked how often they see people of their own color, 71 percent of white youngsters surveyed felt it was very often, compared with 42 percent of blacks, 22 percent of Hispanics and 16 percent of Asians, the study found.

"People are inspired by what they see on television. They do not see themselves on TV, they want to be someone else," one black youngster said.

"A Different World: Children's Perceptions of Race and Class in the Media," was based on a March survey of 1,200 children, aged 10 to 17, and nine focus groups in January and February. Results were being released today at a conference sponsored by Children Now, a national children's

advocacy organization based in Oakland.

"The findings show that kids of all races are aware of media's stereotypes starting at a young age and understand the power of television to shape opinions," said Children Now President Lois Salisbury.

Among the findings: Children more often associate positive qualities—financial success, leadership, intelligence—with white characters, while they associate negative qualities—lawlessness, financial hardship, laziness, poorly behaved—with minority characters.

Children of all races say the news media tend to portray blacks and Hispanics more negatively than whites and Asians, particularly in reports about young people. "You always see black people doing drugs and carrying around drugs, shooting people and stealing things," one white girl said.

The majority of minority children—71 percent of blacks, 63 percent of Hispanics and 51 percent of Asians—felt there should be more news presenters of their race. However, at least

two-thirds of all children said a reporter's race did not affect their trust in the news.

Minority children primarily admire black television figures such as Michael Jordan, Will Smith and Oprah Winfrey, while white children admire white and crossover figures: Jerry Seinfeld, Bart Simpson, Tim Allen and George Clooney as well as Jordan and Smith.

Regardless of background, more than 80 percent of children polled believe the media have the power to teach that people of their race are important, provide role models and make minority children feel included.

71 percent of all children said the role of boss is usually played by someone who is white, while 59 percent said the role of criminal is typically played by blacks.

"The kids are onto something," said Amy Jordan, who directs children's television research at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center. She termed the survey results "consistent" with analyses of televi-

sion programming that found minorities regularly underrepresented, more likely to be stereotyped and more apt to be portrayed in low-class jobs or as criminals or buffoons.

Television is good at holding onto successful formulas, which often are "rooted in stereotypes," she said in an interview. She suggested that giving more exposure to minority characters "would be doing everybody—particularly minority children—a service."

Politicians interviewed 300 children each from white, Hispanic, Asian and black backgrounds. Results for "all children" were weighted to reflect demographic representation in the population of children: 69 percent white, 14 percent black, 13 percent Hispanic, three percent Asian. The poll, conducted by Lake Sosin Snell Perry and Associates, had a 4.9 percent margin of error.

The focus groups were conducted by Lake Sosin Snell Perry and Associates and Motivational Educational Entertainment in Newark, N.J.; Montgomery, Ala.; Alameda, Calif., and Baltimore.

Cinematic 'Moses' praises 'White Pride'

WASHINGTON—The Violence Policy Center (VPC) has obtained the script and video of an inflammatory speech by actor Charlton Heston, the National Rifle Association's first vice president, in which he denounces African-Americans and other groups and speaks fondly of "white pride."

In the speech, delivered last December before the conservative Free Congress '22 Foundation in Washington, DC, Heston called on his audience to "draw your sword and fight" against a variety of opponents, including "blacks who rate a militant fist with one hand while they seek preference with the other." He told his listeners, "Mainstream America is counting on you."

"Once again the NRA has revealed its true extremism," said VPC Executive Director Josh Sugarmann. "This hateful rhetoric goes far beyond gun control, to the very heart of diversity in America. Moses has joined the far right."

In a written statement, Julian Bond, board chairman of the NAACP, noted that Heston's speech undermines his

self-proclaimed identity as a "civil rights activist." He called on Heston, the retiring candidate for the NRA's presidency at the organization's convention next month in Philadelphia, to "repudiate the support of extremists and those who call for 'war' against peaceful citizens."

"Charlton Heston's civil rights credentials are seriously sullied by his bigoted and homophobic remarks and his attacks on racial minorities," Bond said. "That Charlton Heston seems to have been captured by another angry black man contemptuous of America's diversity and scornful of the tolerance which has made our nation great."

Heston's statements were, however, applauded by former Klansman David Duke, who on his web site states, "I was astounded to read these courageous remarks by Charlton Heston. I am thankful to hear a man with such high esteem say essentially the same things which I have been reviled by the liberal media. His words should be reprinted and put into the hands of every American."

Pressures worse for working blacks

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—A national public opinion poll entitled "Family Matters: A National Survey of Women and Men" has found that even when an improving economy two-thirds of African Americans say that time pressures on working families are getting worse.

Seventy-five percent of African Americans under the age of 45 expect to need family or medical leave in the next 10 years. Ninety-six percent want employers to do more to help working families and 90 percent want the government to do more.

Americans want more responsive employers and lawmakers. They want change. They expect change. And they're willing to pay for it and vote for it, said Judith L. Lichtman, president of National Partnership for Women & Families, the sponsors of the survey. They also found that 51 percent of African Americans say that quality is

the single most important factor when choosing a health care plan. More than nine in 10 would favor a Federal Patient Protection Act and 63 percent would favor additional out-of-pocket costs for those protections.

Exactly half of African-American women say time spent at work often interferes with their responsibilities at home. Yet only 27 percent say employers are doing a good or excellent job taking time for additional out-of-pocket costs for those protections.

National Partnership has announced two new programs to help African-American women. The Quality Health Care Initiative will help women get the information and basic consumer protections they need for themselves and their families and the Family Leave Initiative to make family and medical leave available to more working families. For more information call 202-886-2600.

Louisiana's attacker identified in court

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Federal prosecutors say they have two police officers who can testify against the officers charged with attacking a Haitian immigrant in a storeshouse bathroom last summer.

Published reports Saturday identified the men as Officers Rolando Aleman and Francisco Rosario, both assigned to the plainclothes Brooklyn Street Crime Unit and present at the 70th Precinct around the time Abner Louima was allegedly beaten and sodomized with a stick.

It was unclear how helpful the testimony of Aleman and Rosario, disclosed in a letter filed this week by prosecutors, would be to the government, which contends that Officers Justin Volpe and Charles Schwartz attacked Louima in the bathroom.

The officers apparently told the FBI that they believed Officer Thomas Brader—also Volpe—led Louima to jail cell after the attack. Those claims contradicted a statement by another officer, Eric Turetzky, who says he saw Volpe escorting Louima, whose pants were down around his ankles, from the bathroom to a holding cell.

Aleman and Rosario currently are on modified duty police officers accused of giving false information to

investigators working on the case.

Brader's lawyer, Stuart L. Lindt, told the Daily News, "I think that (Aleman and Rosario) are just wrong, take it as being lying. They're not going to be charged."

Volpe, Schwar, Brader and a fourth officer, Thomas Wisne, are charged with violating the civil rights of Louima, who was arrested during a melee outside a Flatbush nightclub on Aug. 9. A federal indictment charges all four with beating Louima in a police car on the way to the storeshouse. It also alleges Volpe attacked Louima in the bathroom, ramming a stick into his rectum and into his mouth, while Schwar held Louima down.

A fifth officer, Sgt. Michael Bellomo, is charged with helping cover up the attack. All five officers deny the charges against them.

Louima was hospitalized for months with serious internal injuries; the assault charge on him, which he was arrested with, was later dropped.

In the prosecutors' letter, they also confirm that Louima identified a photo of Volpe as "looking like" the officer he said had assaulted him in the bathroom three days after the attack. The photo of Volpe was shown to Louima in his hospital bed as part of an array of photographs of police officers.

Spike gets No. 1 film with 'He Got Game'

By Michael Fleeman
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Spike Lee got his first No. 1 film with "He Got Game," as the basketball movie collected \$7.6 million to lead the box office in a weekend before the summer movie blitz, according to figures released recently.

"This is usually a slow week. This is Spike Lee always between Easter and the summer blockbusters," said John Krier of Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., which recorded the second weekend as the lowest grossing of the year and down from the same weekend last year.

The total domestic receipts for this weekend were \$61.4 million, down from last week-end's \$63.4 million and behind last year's comparable weekend total of \$65.2 million.

Exhibitor Relations said, "Directed and written by Lee, 'He Got Game' is Lee's 12th film as director. It stars Denzel Washington and real NBA player Ray Allen in a story about a convicted felon's relationship with his talented basketball-playing son."

Directed and written by Lee, "He Got Game" is Lee's 12th film as director. It stars Denzel Washington and real NBA player Ray Allen in a story about a convicted felon's relationship with his talented basketball-playing son.

Jackson meets with Libarians



CHICAGO—Jesse Jackson holds the Libarian flag with First Lady Madam Jeanne Howard Taylor at a break during a recent meeting of reconciliation and reconstruction at the Rainbow/Push Coalition headquarters in Chicago. With Jackson and Taylor are other members of the Libarian delegation. The meeting brought together 1000 Libarians and Libarian-Americans from 30 states whose purpose was to bring about renewal in that war-torn country.

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Religion Calendar

SATURDAY, MAY 23

NEW BRUNSWICK—Soul Bros. Production Co., Inc. would like to invite you to the 10-State's Biggest Gospel Concert of the Year! Held at the renowned State Theater. 737-422-0674.

SATURDAY, MAY 30

EAST ORANGE—The East Orange "March For Jesus" will host their annual Parade at Soverel Park located at Soverel Terrace and Springdale Avenue; starting at 11 a.m. You are encouraged to bring signs and banners that glorify and extol the name of Jesus. Information pertaining to all March locations can be obtained by calling "The March For Jesus" Hotline at 973-672-6988.

IRVINGTON—"Voices to God II" a gospel extravaganza will be held at the Christian Pentecostal Church at 7 p.m. 973-676-8998.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

PLAINFIELD—This is your personal invitation to Pentecost Sunday Celebration at House of Prayer Church of God in Christ at 11:30 a.m. Free dinner after morning service, all you can eat. Evangelical gospel concert at 7:30 p.m. 973-561-8666.

MONDAY, JUNE 1

NEWARK—It's Gospel Month again! The kick-off and celebration will be held at Newark City Hall, Municipal Council Chamber 2nd Fl. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more info, call 973-705-3151.

NEWARK—Get ready for the World Gospel Music Association 29th Annual Convention and workshop registration is now underway for the first week of October. 973-371-7539.

ATTENTION !!! Churches and Mosques

Please send your religious editorials and calendar events to:

City News
Attn: Religion Calendar
P.O. Box 1774
Plainfield, NJ 07061

What are you committed to?

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

"In struggle one is either serious or not serious. There is no in-between. To be able to define one's commitment within the world is to be able to define one's purpose in life. Commitment and purpose are closely related. A person's purpose in life is generally that which he or she is committed to."

Haki R. Madhubuti

If what Haki R. Madhubuti says is true, and I believe it is, a person's purpose in life is generally that which he or she is committed to. So what one might ask are Africans in America committed to? What are our goals? We seem to be the only large ethnic block in this country without an agenda or program for our survival. By agenda and program I don't mean a strategy designed, financed and implemented by others. I mean a plan we formulate and put into effect ourselves. What are we collectively willing to galvanize around and invest time, energy and resources in?

Often I think we are the only ones "obvious to the fact that we are in the throws of an all-out war. I attribute it to post traumatic stress disorder. We are in shock, reeling from the relentless psychological assault lobbed at us. We are so caught up in the ordeal of living in a society which openly attempts to marginalize us that we stumble incessantly over the carnage of homelessness, addi-

tions, escapism, self-destructive behaviors and nihilism unfazed.

Are we that numb that we've become indifferent to the pain and anger of our brothers and sisters? Is the enemy's brainwashing and ceaseless propaganda taking an irreversible toll on us? Have we given up and thrown in the towel, or is there still fight left in us?

Do we love ourselves enough to continue the struggle for MANA and human decency or will we simply roll over and allow our adversaries to win by default? In the same essay that contained the earlier quote, Madhubuti actually points out, "However, a commitment to the Black struggle will come about only after a commitment to one's self and one's people is made first. That is, fundamentally, one must see value in one's self and in one's people if one is to make a sincere commitment to self and people." From "Exercises: The Clash of Races."

The key to our rejuvenation, regeneration and resurrection as a people is for enough of us to become like Fannie Lou Hamer, "sick and tired of being sick and tired" and value ourselves enough to do something meaningful about it. What are you willing to do so your life and the lives of your children will be fuller, more meaningful and less marginal? What are you willing to do?

What gives your life meaning? Are you inspired by lofty goals, a noble vision of yourself and your people? Or are you satisfied simply chasing "the American dream" giving no thought to

its moral ambiguity, spiritual bankruptcy and hypocrisy. What turns you on? Is it a fatter pay check, better bank account, slick ride, fine clothes, a "player's" lifestyle or outside validation?

Take a look at yourself in the mirror of your life. What do you see? Are you satisfied with what you behold? To what have you given all your energies and vitality? Do all your efforts and endeavors enrich others? Have you ever considered doing that for yourself or our people? Have you made a commitment to self and kind? Or are you out there on your own checkers, alienated and self-absorbed running wildly on the proverbial tread mill? What about your true purpose in life or our survival as a people? Do you even care about them?

If the answer is yes, what are you doing about it? What are you doing to make sure you don't go stark raving mad? You can save yourself only by loving yourself enough to want to be better and ensure a better day for all. None of us is perfect. We are not called to be. We are however called to be our best and truest selves and give our best.

Who are you serving? Are we promoting the status quo or are we enhancing the prospects of life, sanity, wholeness and regeneration? Time is of the essence, do you know what you are committed to? What is your life's purpose? Do you know, do you know? If you don't know, now is the time to discover it. If you do know, check and make sure you are on track.

Many Cultures, One Church celebrate faith

NEWARK—Flags, food, music, art, dance and the faith of 17 ethnic groups will come together at a Multi-Cultural Celebration and Pentecost Mass at Liberty State Park from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 30. "Many Cultures, One Church" is the theme of the Newark Archdiocesan event.

Ron Phokker, Director of the Cathedral Office and one of the day's organizers, explains that bringing cultures together has been a theme of Pentecost since the first century. "We celebrate unity of faith through cultural diversity during Pentecost as a sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives today."

"We remember our ancestors in the faith who on the first Pentecost were able to break cultural and language barriers, so that everyone could hear the Word of God," said Phokker. In the Church's liturgical calendar, Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter. It marks the Jewish pilgrimage feast on which the Holy Spirit descended on the assembled disciples.

The day will conclude with a Pentecost Mass at 4 p.m. celebrated by Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick. The Mass will include many languages and cultures of the Archdiocese. Clergy from the Council for Multi-Cultural Concerns and from throughout the Archdiocese will join the Archbishop in celebrating the Pentecost Mass.

Magr. Fimiani points out that the Multi-Cultural Celebration is the day before Archbishop McCarrick's 40th Anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

Catholic schools and Cathedral

programs in the Archdiocese are also contributing to the day by sponsoring a poster contest. Students will decorate posters around the theme, "Many Cultures, One Church." The posters will be displayed at the old train station at Liberty State Park during the Multi-Cultural Celebration.

"It is the kind of event that really shows what the people of the Church can do when we come together," said Phokker. "This event is a real opportunity for evangelization on a larger scale. Phokker added that the celebration will illustrate the diversity of the Catholic Church. "It is wonderful to see the different cultures of the Archdiocese celebrating her faith."

Magr. Lou Fimiani, Chairman of the Council for Multi-Cultural Concerns and Vicar for Pastoral Life, feels Liberty State Park is the most fitting place to celebrate the event. "Ellis Island was the site where thousands of immigrants came to this country," he said, "and it is a wonderful place to celebrate our differences and our similarities."

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Baccalaureate services honors high school seniors

NEWARK—Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry's (MEM) Youth Network Program will honor Newark's high school seniors in its 12th Annual Baccalaureate Service on Sunday, May 31, beginning 6 p.m. at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 89 Ridge Street (across from Branch Brook Park).

MEM an interfaith coalition of congregations and individuals representing over 40,000 people in Newark and surrounding communities sponsors this event each year to honor and extend the blessings and well wishes of the faith community to graduating students from Newark Public Schools. The organization seeks to reduce violence, crime and addiction by promoting education and economic development in urban areas.

The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) and University Hospital has collaborated in a joint venture with MEM's Youth Network Program to remind the challenges faced by youths living in the urban city of Newark and surrounding areas.

The Baccalaureate Service is open to the public and is part of building effective School and Church Partnerships to improve urban education and is made possible with the cooperation of the Newark Public Schools.

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Send your religious news to: City News PO Box 1774, Plainfield NJ 07061

LIFESTYLES



Join the African-American Parade festivities May 22-25

NEWARK—The African-American Heritage Parade and Festival, to take place from May 22-25 in Vauxhall Park, is organized by the overarching theme: "Building a Tradition." But it base corporate support is growing even faster.

A diverse and growing group of corporations have stepped to the plate in support of the parade efforts this year. Contributing their level of support. Mobil Oil Corp., Fleet Bank, Broad National Bank and Managed Health Care of New Jersey—the biggest sponsors—have pledged a total of \$67,500.

An assortment of free health services including blood pressure and glaucoma screenings and dental examinations, will be offered to visitors at the park, courtesy of St. Barnabas Health Care Systems. Also available will be an array of interactive athletic activities in a 4,000-square-foot attraction courtesy of the new Jersey Nets.

Parade Chairman Donald Bernard said the corporations' sponsorship "offers the African-American Heritage Parade Committee dollars as a reflection of their generosity and good will. In addition to the intrinsic value in an event such as this, in terms of human development and quality of life, the recognition that the black consumer should be rewarded with respect and support is encouraging. Our organization visualizes a time when our partnerships will be in limited supply in relation to the demand. Indeed we are on the road to effectuate a national promotion that brings credit to our city, state and race."

Throughout the Memorial weekend, a star-studded lineup of artists including spiritual vocalist Josiah Nelson and the Sankofa African Dance Troupe will grace the main stage, provided by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

NOTICE TO POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF DISCRIMINATION AT HILLCREST VILLAGE APARTMENTS AND LEXINGTON VILLAGE APARTMENTS

On April 8, 1998, the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey entered an order resolving a lawsuit brought by the United States Department of Justice against the owners, managers and rental agents of Hillcrest Village Apartments and Lexington Village Apartments in Clark, New Jersey. The lawsuit alleged that the defendants had discriminated against black persons who sought rental housing there. Under this order, you may be entitled to receive monetary relief if you asked about or applied for renting, or rented, an apartment at Hillcrest Village Apartments or Lexington Village Apartments and:

1. You were denied an opportunity to live there because of your race or color or the race or color of someone who would be living with you or
2. You were falsely told that no apartments were available because of your race or color or the race or color of someone who would be living with you; or
3. You were otherwise discriminated against on the basis of race or color in connection with your occupancy at Hillcrest Village Apartments or Lexington Village Apartments or your attempt to rent a unit there.

If you believe you were discriminated against because of race or color at Hillcrest Village Apartments or Lexington Village Apartments, or if you have any information about persons who may have been discriminated against there on the basis of race or color, please contact the United States Department of Justice at 1-800-896-7743. You may also write to:

United States Department of Justice
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Housing and Civil Enforcement Section
P.O. Box 65998
Washington, D.C. 20035-5998

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Health Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

NEW BRUNSWICK—A breastfeeding support group will be held from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital's board room. 732-937-8105.

NUTLEY—A blood drive will be held at Nutley Chapter House, American Red Cross from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 1-800-BLOOD NJ.

LIVINGSTON—A blood drive will be held at St. Barnabas Medical Center from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. 1-800-BLOOD NJ.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

PRINCETON—John D. Farburg and Todd C. Brower, attorneys in the Health Care and Hospital Law Dept. of the Roseland-based firm Brach, will present a seminar entitled "New Developments in Fraud and Abuse Law" at the NJ Hospital Association. The seminar begins at 9 a.m. and concludes with a networking lunch at 12:30 p.m.

NEWARK—The Mt. Carmel Guild Behavioral Health Division of Catholic Community Services will be hosting a lecture on "Celebrating the Client: Breaking the Stigma" from 10 a.m. to noon at 494 Broad Street, 4th Fl.

IRVINGTON—Anyone who likes to cook should attend this free seminar, "Food and Kitchen Safety to Avoid Food Poisoning," sponsored by Irvington General Hospital from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in Classroom B of the hospital. 201-999-6159.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

JAMESBURG—In celebration of National Senior Health and Fitness Day, Monroe Village is holding a free Health Fair filled with activities, education and delicious food from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 732-333-4447.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

NEW BRUNSWICK—Hepatitis "C" Support Group. Support group meetings for the patients with Hepatitis C and their family members. Meet the first Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 15

UNION—Like to bike? The American Lung Association of NJ invite you to join other NJ cyclists in the GTE Big Ride across America. For more info, call 908-687-9340.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

NEWARK—Newark Beth Israel Medical Center Health Network sponsors "Tips for Staying Healthy" from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Medical Center. 973-626-6771.

HEARTBEAT

Doctors warn of high blood pressure attack among blacks

Your guide to healthy living

City News 7

DALLAS (AP)—Several leading black cardiologists are calling for a renewed attack on the causes of heart disease among blacks.

"The leading cause of death among black Americans is not AIDS, homicide or cancer. It's cardiovascular disease," said Dr. Clyde Yancy, a cardiologist at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

Most blacks can avoid or reduce heart disease through healthier diets, less smoking and use of new drugs, Yancy said.

Yancy and other specialists spoke Friday at UT Southwestern during a medical conference on managing heart-disease risks among blacks. Speakers also urged recruiting more

black patients in medical research and screening blacks for heart-disease risk at earlier ages.

Strokes are increasing among blacks, and heart attacks are increasing among black men, said Dr. Charles Francis, director of medicine at Harlem Hospital Center in New York and chairman of the Association of Black Cardiologists.

Francis said blacks are more likely than whites to carry major risk factors for cardiovascular disease, including obesity, high cholesterol, diabetes and smoking. He said it was a "very ominous sign" that smoking is increasing among black teens.

Francis also urged more research into treatment of high blood pressure among blacks. He said many blacks

don't trust researchers because of studies such as one conducted at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, in which researchers monitored—but did not treat—blacks suffering from syphilis.

"We need to get the message across to African-Americans that research is valuable," Francis said.

A common method of recruiting research patients is by paying them. But Francis and others said this raises concerns that some participants are more interested in the money than advancing medical knowledge.

Yancy, the UT Southwestern cardiologist, said screening for heart disease must begin earlier among blacks because nearly 40 percent develop high blood pressure in their late 20s or

30s. Among other races, he said, high blood pressure usually develops later in life.

"That is an extreme statistic because that means a lifetime of exposure to the deleterious effects of hypertension" for many blacks, Yancy said.

Dr. Elijah Saunders, head of hypertension research at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, said blacks on average have diets that are higher in salt, fat and calories, causing key organ damage and dental cavities. Saunders said there are several "special challenges" in treating blacks for high blood pressure. He said blacks are more likely to be diagnosed later and to have other diseases.

NJAMHA raises awareness of mental health issues

MANASQUAN—With the beginning of May—Mental Health Month—the New Jersey Association of Mental Health Agencies, Inc. (NJAMHA) is hoping to raise awareness of the need to fight the stigma and discrimination perpetuated against those with mental illness.

This latest effort complements the release of a high-impact and riveting public service announcement on this subject that NJAMHA unveiled in October 1997.

The 30-second thought-provoking spot is still being aired on various network and cable television stations throughout New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

"If each of us were to stop and think a moment, chances are over overwhelmingly favorable that we could identify someone we know who is dealing with a mental illness right now," said Debra L. Wentz, Ph.D., Executive Director of NJAMHA. "A parent, a sibling, a friend, a co-worker."

Perhaps that person is one of the one in four Americans who are depressed, has panic attacks, exhibits obsessive compulsive behavior or has another mental health diagnosis. And, chances are, we treat these people in our life

fairly and with the respect and dignity they deserve.

"Why then, does society as a whole view those persons with mental illness, as a group, so differently?" Wentz asked.

Societal stigmas and discrimination against those with mental illness are apparent in housing, education, employment and access to treatment.

The discrimination is also apparent in healthcare, where coverage for mental illnesses is severely limited compared to coverage for physical ailments.

Mental illness affects more people than cancer, diabetes and heart disease combined. In fact, psychiatric disorders are the number one reason for hospital admissions nationwide. Mental illnesses are not only "diagnosable," they are treatable.

"The truth is that those with mental illness are productive, creative, responsible members of society."

Holding back those with mental illness is not the answer," Wentz said. "History shows us that those with mental illness who have been allowed to realize their full potential, have made overwhelmingly important contributions to society."

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Part I Get tested for Colon/Rectal Cancer

By Kai A. Nyoya

Colorectal cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed form of cancer among both men and women in the United States. For men, colorectal cancer follows prostate and lung cancers in frequency; for women, it follows breast and lung cancers.

Solaris Health System, Muhlenberg Hospital and other concerned health officials encourage residents of Union County, Middlesex and Somerset Counties, particularly 40-50 yrs. old to get screened for colorectal cancer. "The purpose of the screening project is to identify people who may have a polyp so it can be treated without surgery before it degenerates to a cancer or to actually identify a cancer in its early stages while it can be cured," said Dr. Bertram Chinitz, a Colon/Rectal Surgeon.

He further said that, "People are fearful to get screened for colon cancer. Two primary reasons are: (1) the concern that if you're identified with colon cancer that you will need a colostomy. That's one of the big phobias people have dealing with colon cancer identified here at Muhlenberg, less than four percent of the people who actually have a colon cancer really end up with permanent colostomy. (2) Historically, people vowed and their private parts were something you just don't discuss and their embarrassed to get screening and their embarrassed to ask their physician, 'Should I be screened?'"

What Is Colorectal Cancer?

Colon and rectal cancer have many features in common and are often referred to as colorectal cancer. Colorectal cancer develops in the digestive tract which is also called the gastrointestinal or GI tract. The digestive system processes food for energy and rid the body of solid waste matter (fecal matter).

How Does The Cancer Develop?

Cancer can develop in any of the four sections of the colon or in the rectum. These cancers develop slowly over a period of several years. Before a cancer develops, there are usually precancerous changes in the lining of the colon or rectum. These changes might be dysplasia or adenomatous polyps. A polyp is a growth of tissue into the center of the colon or rectum. If not treated, cells from the tumor may break away and spread through the bloodstream of the lymph system to other parts of the body.

Colorectal cancer is the second



Dorie Forney, director of patient relations, Plainfield Health Center. Leading cause of cancer related deaths, accounting for about 55,000 deaths a year. The New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services reported 2,772 deaths from colorectal cancer in 1994.

Who Is At Risk?

The risk of developing this cancer begins to increase after the age of 40 for both men and women, rises sharply between the ages of 50-55, and continues to increase with age. Other major risk factors include inflammatory bowel disease, family history of developing colon and rectal polyps and colorectal cancer. Excess dietary fat, alcohol use, sedentary lifestyle, and obesity are also possible risk factors.

Early detection

Detecting the presence of colorectal cancer by participating in a screening will greatly increase one's survival rate. Survival rates vary significantly by stage at diagnosis: persons diagnosed at a localized stage have a five-year survival rate of 91 percent, and those diagnosed at a regional stage have a five-year survival rate of 63 percent.

However, the Health Works: Community Partnership for Central New Jersey found that colorectal cancer screenings ranked second for the most underutilized preventive screening in Middlesex, Somerset, and Union counties.

Free Colorectal Screening Kits are available at: Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Inc. (information desk), Plainfield CVS—Park Ave., City Hall Health Dept.—Watching Ave., and Plainfield Health Center—Myrtle Ave. and Rock Ave.

Information on preventive measures will be given in next week's issue.

Discipline and parent-child relations

by Matthew B. Johnson, Ph.D.

Parents have preferred methods they use to discipline their children. When the subject of discipline comes up parents describe how they punish unwholesome behavior. Most families use several different methods such as loss of privileges, "spankings" or "beatings," "time-out," grounding, denial of allowance. Methods of punishment vary from household to household, sometimes girls are punished differently from boys and most parents recognize that the punishment needs to be appropriate to the age of the child. What is often not appreciated by parents is that discipline in children is not the result solely, or primarily, of punishment. Though punishing is important, the punishment is largely dependent upon the child's relationship with the parental figure. When a parent and child share a close positive relationship, punishment is rarely needed. The parent respects the child and is attuned to the child's concerns and level of maturity. The child, in turn, respects the parent as the benevolent authority.

There are some obvious and dramatic circumstances that lead to disruption in parent-child relationships, such as physical, emotional or sexual abuse, neglect, or abandonment, substance abuse and family violence. Yet however bad relationships may become, with vision and faith in the family, relationships damaged relationships can be restored. This article will focus on some of the more subtle and less obvious factors that undermine strong positive bonds between a child and the parents.

It is by nature that children attach to their parents. Children model after their parents and seek the love, admiration and approval of their parents. This is a natural part of the dependence human infants and children have on their adult caretakers. Children want to please their parents and this is the foundation upon which parents can establish discipline. Parents will find that it is more effective to take a positive approach toward discipline rather than a negative approach. In the negative approach discipline is focused on punishing children for what they have done wrong. The negative approach is child directed and begins after the child has misbehaved. In the positive approach discipline is focused on recognizing and reinforcing each child's positive behavior. In the positive approach the child gets the praise and attention he or she desires, and the parent-child bond is strengthened. In the positive approach the child knows exactly what the parent wants and knows they will be recognized when it is provided. The positive approach respects the natural tendency of children to win their parents approval.

The positive approach requires that the parent pay much (or more) attention to the child's good behavior as the child's misbehavior. The positive approach also requires that the parent be clear in terms of what they want for their children. Again it is crucial for parents to discard the negative approach to discipline which is focused on what the child is not supposed to do, such as, "I don't want you fighting with your sister," "I don't want you getting in trouble in school," "I don't want you using drugs." "I don't want you getting pregnant." Rather, the parents clarify the type of relationship they want the siblings to have, their expectations of each child as a student and the type of peer relationships children and adolescents can enjoy. The positive approach is also an opportunity for parents to instill in their children the values and ideals. Children appreciate and need this guidance particularly today given the overexposure of violence, sexuality, and simplistic themes in the popular culture.

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Wednesday

THURSDAY, MAY 21

NEW YORK—Jazz on film! Jimmie's Blues—A 40's Jazz Masterpiece hosted by Harry "Swifty" Edition at the Walter Theater, 7pm and 9pm at the Walter Theater. For more info, call 212-875-5597.

ENGLEWOOD—John Harris Center for the Arts presents Mary Wilson of the Supremes at 8 p.m. 201-567-3500.

FRIDAY, MAY 22

NEWARK—The Priority Jazz Series presents Ernie Andrews from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. no cover charge, food or beverage purchase required. 973-242-8012.

NEWARK—The Newark Museum's Arts Workshop for Adults has announced its Spring 1998 Series, which features a week of special events with John Marshall, celebrated artist, calligrapher and fashion designer. 973-596-6638.

NEW YORK—Audrey's World featuring the art, culture and history explored in the popular maritime feature novel by Patrick O'Brian will be exhibited at the Water Street Gallery, 214-349-9000, ext. 243.

SUNDAY, MAY 24

NEWARK—The Priority Jazz Series presents pianist and vocalist Betty Schermer, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. no cover charge, food or beverage purchase required. 973-242-8012.

TUESDAY, MAY 26

PLAINFIELD—From now until the year 2000, the Historical Society of Plainfield will be highlighting our city in the 20th Century, two decades at a time at the Drake House Museum, 908-756-5000, ext. 2366.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

NEWARK—The New Jersey Performing Arts Center presents An Evening With Mary Wilson in the Prudential Hall. Concert begins at 8pm. For ticket info, call 1-888-GO-NJ-APC.

THURSDAY, MAY 28

NEW BRUNSWICK—The NJ Symphony Orchestra is pleased to present the legendary singer Nancy Wilson who will perform a comparison of her classic hits and songs from her new album, Love, Nancy. Performance takes place at 8 p.m. at the State Theatre in New Brunswick. 1-800-255-3476.

PHILADELPHIA—Internationally acclaimed Philadelphia 28th Spring Concert Series will be held through May 30th at Annenberg Center's Zellerbach Theater. 215-381-6200.

Scotch Du Jour

"Working with Isaiah Washington was great. What more can I say? It's a smiling 61-year-old Warren Beatty who went through the interview. Looking a more distinguished than he did in "Bonnie and Clyde" some decades ago, on this sunny Los Angeles morning, he's wearing a khaki tie against an Army green shirt and a boyish smile.

The married father of three still has global appeal as evidenced by prior reviews of his latest endeavor, "Isaiah Washington 'Bulworth'."

The 20th Century Fox comedy about a successful senator who runs his wife into political office when lies, fake charm and brown nosing start to lose its effectiveness, is the type of film intelligent audiences want to see. No bull, "Bulworth," which also stars Halle Berry, the brilliant Anirri Baraka and, of course, Isaiah Washington, is the best political film since "Wag the Dog."

I enjoyed Beatty's Marky Mark-like costumes and his Vanilla Ice-like rhymes. I only wish I could have seen more of the bad boy "bout to turn good"—Washington. In one of the film's most pivotal scenes, the dope-man (Beatty) wants ovel-dough and Washington's character is a little short on cash. Such a believable performance as a street hustler.

"Bulworth" might make you forget Washington's role as Kyle, the actor's cloistered gay character in Spike Lee's "Get On the Bus."

I mean, after all, when a straight brother can convincingly play being gay, people start to thinking that there's some element of truth in the performance. (Take Wesley Snipes in "Too Wong Foo" and Eddie Murphy one of his many live performances.) Audiences scoff at Dustin Hoffman for playing a woman in "Tootsie"? Oh well, time will eventually erase igno-

First black woman lion trainer premieres at UniverSoul Circus

ATLANTA, GA.—UniverSoul Circus, the electrifying circus extravaganza that has captivated audiences nationwide, will launch its 1998 National 16-City Tour with an all new show, featuring the U.S.A. premiere of *Monique, The Black Lion Trainer*, who is the first black woman lion trainer in the world.

Fresh from a sizzling run with the Paris City Circus, Monique, The Lady Lion Trainer has been training lions since age 16. Today, the glamorous 24-year old, who the European press has dubbed "the world's sexiest lion-trainer," trains six lions for her thrilling performance. Monique, who hails from Martinique, has raised several of her 400-pound big cats since they were cubs.

These performers, the audience knows, are risking their lives. The audience lives in that moment with that person," explains Calvin Walker, founder and president of UniverSoul Circus, who has traveled throughout the world to sign top circus performers of African descent



to showcase their talents in the U.S. before inner city audiences. "There was

n't one act that refused," says Walker.

"We give audiences what they don't expect," laughs Calvin Walker, Jr., co-founder, who is also Casual Cal, The Ringmaster of UniverSoul Circus. Dupree, a former radio and television personality, emcees each night zipped up in a Zoot suit in homage of Gab Calloway. Together with his three-foot tall sidekick Zeke, Dupree emcees audiences through non-stop riffs and chills. Other performers premiering in 1998 include: The Ayak Brothers, South African-born aerial warriors who perform foot-to-foot, death-defying feats with no net; Mango Peter Lewis, who parties with pachyderms; the renowned King Charles Unicorn Troupe with their supercycle sports; and artist, Pamela Hernandez, who weaves a web at the top of the tent. No circus would be complete without the antics of clowns, clowns, clowns and the UniverSoul Circus is proud to present Brother Crow, Denise Payne, and Ronnie Moseley.

Under the UniverSoul Circus big top, audiences participate in an optical

show laced with urban music's hottest hits of the 70's, 80's, and 90's. "We have to reflect an African base culture. That's tempo, that's energy, that's the beat. We have to embody that and the music that we chose embodies that," insists Walker. "So we are fresh, we are new. We reflect the inner city. We're in the 90's in the reflection of the people. That urban, utopian beat tells the story."

UniverSoul Circus is the only African-American-owned circus in the U.S. The creative forces behind UniverSoul Circus are Cedric Walker, founder and president; Calvin Dupree, Jr., co-founder and ringmaster; and Tony Marzullo, creative director. Since the 1980's, Walker and Dupree have teamed up to innovate new entertainment shows. The team pioneered pay's early hip hop tours and Walter produced the smash black musical "A Good Man is Hard to Find." Marzullo, who created the circus' unique visual look, is acclaimed in the music industry for designing the legendary tour for Prince, KISS, and Guns N' Roses.

Essence awards to air on fox on May 21

Honorees include The Artist Patti LaBelle, Wynton Marsalis and Will Smith

NEW YORK—The biggest and best in the music industry are showcased in the 1998 Essence Awards, a gala presentation devoted to the celebration of music. The most renowned names in pop, rap, jazz, soul, rhythm and blues and gospel pay tribute to six honorees including The Artist, Patti LaBelle, Wynton Marsalis and Will Smith. The two-hour prime-time special airs on Thursday, May 21, from 8 to 10 P.M. (ET/PT) on Fox.

The show is hosted by Vivica A. Fox, Enq La Salle and Lynn Whitfield, and features unforgettable performances by The Artist, Michael Bolton, Mariah Carey, Sean "Puffy" Combs, Celine Dion with Diana King and SWV. In addition, Lisa Nicole Carson, Bill Cosby, Jamie Foxx, Whitney Houston, Lela Rochon and Chris Rock salute and celebrate those who have made a difference in the music industry. LaBelle received the distinguished Essence Triumphant Spirit Award for her accomplishments as an African-American groundbreaking who has revolutionized the industry by breaking barriers and using personal influence to open doors for and empower others.

The Essence Awards, which highlight the contributions of preminent



The 1998 Essence Awards will be hosted by Vivica A. Fox, Enq La Salle and Lynn Whitfield.

DINAH WAS THE DINAH WASHINGTON MUSICAL

"YVETTE FREEMAN AS DINAH WASHINGTON GIVES A KNOCKOUT PERFORMANCE!"
—Clive Barnes, *New York Post*

"THRILLING... YVETTE FREEMAN IS ANOTHER QUEEN OF THE BLUES!"
—*Newday*

"REMARKABLE!"
—Mary Campbell, *Associated Press*

"POWERFUL AND EVOCATIVE. A MEMORABLE EVENING."
—*The New Yorker*

"STIRRING AND POWERFUL! YVETTE FREEMAN IS PHENOMENAL!"
—Linda Armstrong, *Amsterdam News*

"DINAH WAS' MAY WELL PROVE TO BE THE MUSICAL SLEEPER OF THE SEASON. I URGE YOU TO SEE IT!"
—Larry Leford, *Bergen News*



PHOTO: JAMES ROBERTS

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Celebrities gather for black film awards nominations

LOS ANGELES—Members of both the Hollywood and corporate communities gathered recently at Neiman Marcus in Beverly Hills, CA for a special reception to announce the nominations for the Black Film Awards. The Awards ceremony, which celebrates achievement in African American film-

making, will take place on July 17 as part of the second annual Acapulco Black Film Festival (ABFF). The nominees were announced by UniWorld Entertainment, the Black Filmmaker Foundation and HBO, presenters of the 1998 Acapulco Black Film Festival, which will be held July 12-17 in



On hand to announce the nominations for the Black Film Awards are, from left, are James Gilmer, Director of Retail Marketing, Sara Lee Corporation; Kenneth Lombard, President, Magic Johnson Theatres; Warrington Hudlin, President, Black Filmmaker Foundation; actress Sallie Krawcheck; Sybil Berry, Associate Manager of Subscriber and Special Markets, HBO; Byron Lewis, Chairman/CEO, UniWorld Group; Jeff Friday, Managing Director, UniWorld Entertainment; Eddie Arnold, Public Relations Consultant, Nielsen Media Research; actor/director Robert Townsend and director Bill Duke.

Cissy Houston signs at Tunde Dada

ORANGE—Recording artist and New Jersey native Cissy Houston recently added another entry to her long list of accomplishments—that of author. The Grammy Award-winning singer and a special honoree at the 1997 City News 100 Most Influential, mother of Whitney and cousin of Dionne Warwick will be autographing copies of her new book, "Have Sweet the Sound: My Life with God and

Gospel," at Tunde Dada's House of Africa, 356 Main Street, Orange, on Monday, May 25 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Cissy Houston

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		Any Saturday	
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		4:30 & 8PM	\$15, \$17.50, \$25, \$40
		Kids to 10 yrs.	\$15, \$22.50, \$37.50
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		NOON Show	adults \$15, Kids 12.50
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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS for THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SALEM

The Housing Authority of the City of Salem, 205 Seventh Street, Salem, New Jersey 08079, the awarding authority (hereinafter referred to as "the Authority") is receiving bids for THE REPLACEMENT OF GAS WATER HEATERS AND SPACE HEATERS IN TOWN HOUSE APARTMENTS AT WEST SIDE COURT, SALEM, NEW JERSEY.

The Authority will receive sealed bids for this work located at West Side Court, Salem, New Jersey 08079 in accordance with Contract Documents prepared together with addenda as may be issued prior to the date of receipt of bids.

Generally, the work shall include: THE REMOVAL, DISCARDING, AND REPLACEMENT OF 87 "L" GAS WATER HEATERS AND SPACE HEATERS IN TOWN HOUSE APARTMENTS AT WEST SIDE COURT, SALEM, NEW JERSEY.

Bids will be received and publicly opened by the Authority on Thursday, June 11, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. prevailing time at the Office of The Authority, located at 205 Seventh Street, Salem, New Jersey 08079. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of 60 days subsequent to the bid opening date without the consent of the Authority.

Sealed proposals for a single, over-all contract for General Construction, covering all trades, will be received for all labor and materials to complete the project. Bidders and the successful Contractor and his subcontractors will be required to comply with Affirmative Action Regulations of the State of New Jersey, stipulated in N.J.S.A. 10:5-1-18, and to comply with Chapter 23 of the Public Laws of 1977 and with the requirements of Public Law of 1975, Chapter 127.

The Owner reserves the right to make any informality in any bid or bids, to reject any and all bids, and to accept such bid or bids and to make such awards as may be in the best interest of the Authority.

Bid proposals must be submitted in triplicate and as directed by the Specifications, in a sealed envelope, addressed to the Owner. Envelopes shall, on the front, be designated as to the Contract for which the proposal is entered, and the name and address of the Bidder.

Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a Surety Company licensed to do business in New Jersey which is listed in U.S. Treasury Circular No. 570 or by certified check in the amount called for in the specifications, made out to the Authority. The bid bond or certified check used to satisfy the foregoing bid surety requirements shall be in an amount not less than 10% of the bid for a bid less than \$200,000; \$200,000, for a bid of \$200,001 to \$400,000; and 5% of the bid for a bid in excess of \$400,000. Bidders are advised that the amount of bid security required shall be more than \$50,000 for bids submitted in excess of \$400,000. Proposals must also be accompanied by the affidavit, etc., referred to in the Instructions to Bidders in the Specifications. Regardless of whether the bid bond or certified check is submitted for proposal guarantee, each bidder shall submit a contract surety also from a Surety Company licensed to do business in New Jersey which is listed in U.S. Treasury Circular No. 570, stating that it will issue the necessary payment and performance bond should the bidder enter into contract for this work with the Authority.

The Drawings, Specifications, Form of Proposal, Contract Form, and any Addendum and Modifications describing the Work will be on file and may be examined at the office of the Housing Authority, 205 Seventh Street, Salem, New Jersey 08079 on or after Monday, May 18, 1998. Complete Construction Documents may also be obtained at the Housing Authority for a non-refundable deposit of One Hundred dollars (\$100.00) per set. Documents will be mailed to prospective bidders for a mailing fee of Thirty-five dollars (\$35.00).

The site will generally be available for inspection from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY, with the Owner, telephone: (908) 935-5022. A 24-hr. notice is required to arrange a site visit.

Prospective bidders are hereby informed that not less than the minimum prevailing wage rates as required by H.U.D. shall be paid on this project. The bidder must submit with his bid a notarized affidavit listing all persons owning ten percent (10%) or more of the stock in the corporation submitting the bid, complete with addresses. The successful bidder will be required to obtain a Payroll and Performance bond for the full amount of the Contract, as defined from a Surety Company licensed to do business in New Jersey and listed in U.S. Treasury Circular No. 570.

This project is being executed with funds provided by the U.S. Government through the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

\$222.30

NOTICE FOR ARCHITECTS/ ENGINEERS

The Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Salem is inviting submissions from professional architectural/engineering firms regarding HUD funded comprehensive program (COP) improvements. The scope of work includes: 87th year revision of the comprehensive plan. The scope of service includes: assessing the authority to prepare the physical needs assessment, management needs assessment, five-year action plan and the executive summary.

Submittals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Professional and technical experience
2. Weight - 3
3. Capability to provide services in a timely manner
4. Weight - 2
5. Past performance in terms of cost control quality of work and performance schedule
6. Weight - 3
7. Knowledge of local building practices
8. Weight - 2
9. General response to the invitation
10. Weight - 1
11. Fee Proposal
12. Weight - 1

Interested firms should respond by 6:00 a.m., May 28, 1998 to Ruth G. Gross, Executive Director, 205 Seventh Street, Salem, New Jersey 08079.

All submittals must include evidence of professional license to perform services in New Jersey and a certification that the firm principals or staff have not been debarred or otherwise disqualified by the Federal, State or Local Government Agency.

Ruth G. Gross, PHM
Executive Director

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- MEDICAL EXAM (INCLUDING URINALYSIS)

If you are interested APPLY IN PERSON (NO PHONE CALLS OR RESUMES ACCEPTED) at the Township of Montclair Human Resources Office, 205 Glenmont Avenue, Montclair, NJ between the hours of 9 AM and 4 PM, Monday through Friday. Applications may also be picked up at the Police Department on the corner of Bloomfield Avenue and Valley Road at 4th floor.

APPLICATION FEE: A non-refundable application fee of \$25.00 must be submitted with the completed application. Applications submitted without the required fee will not be accepted. Make certified check or money order payable to: Township of Montclair, NO CASH OR PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 4:00 PM ON JUNE 15, 1998. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER.

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SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT

Red Bank YMCA hiring for summer camp. Instructor needed for Tennis, Swimming, Racquetball, Canoeing, Camp Site Leader, Arts and Craft, Drama, Van Driver (CDL license not needed) and Student Teachers call Michelle at 741-2504 or apply in person 186 Maple Ave. Red Bank, NJ on April 30 or May 14, 1998 any time between 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

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To write and edit a 4-page, monthly National Teacher's Guide. At least two years of teaching experience necessary, preferably grades 6 and up.

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College graduate wanted Weekly African- American Newspaper searching for editor

Fast learner, highly resourceful with excellent research, writing and communication skills. Must have great organizational skills, ability to supervise others, able to identify research and report news and information pertaining to black people. Must know Microsoft Word, Quark. Able to work nights and weekends. Must have reliable car. Willing to train recent college graduate with right skills and attitude. Starting salary negotiable depending on experience. Send resume and writing samples to: City News, PO Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07060. No calls.

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Local Briefs

Ten honored by 100 Black Men

NEWARK—Ten New Jersey leaders will be honored for their civic and charitable endeavors by 100 Black Men of New Jersey, Inc., at the organization's Second Annual Community Service Awards Dinner on Wednesday, May 20, at the Sheraton Meadows Hotel in East Rutherford.

The honorees include: William Dowdy, CEO, Raza Hair Care Products, Entrepreneur of Year; Lawrence P. Goldman, President & CEO, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Community Builder/Beacon of Hope Award; Maurice Hill, Entrepreneur/Entrepreneur, Exemplary Leadership in Entertainment Award; Patricia Hurt, Essex County Prosecutor, Exemplary Leadership in Law Award; William J. Jones, Humanitarian Award; Public Service Electric & Gas, Company of the Year Award; Rev. Jerry Sanders, Pastor, Fountain Baptist Church, Community Service Award.

Also, Joy Turner, Small Business Consultant, 100 Black Men of New Jersey Woman of the Year Award, Congressman Robert Menendez, National Leadership Award; and Dominic DiPiano, college student, Symbol of Excellence Award.

A reception is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. A ticket donation of \$100 is requested and may be obtained by calling 973-678-6222.

MLK Commission announces Personal Responsibility Essay Contest

TRENTON—By studying life teachings of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and using them as a guide to increase personal responsibility in New Jersey, high school students across the state now have a chance to win up to \$1,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds, Secretary of State Lorna R. Hooks and members of the New Jersey Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission announced recently.

Inspired by Governor Christine Todd Whitman's focus on increasing personal and shared responsibility in our state, the MLK Commission created this special 1998 Personal Responsibility Essay Contest, which has an entry deadline of May 29.

MLK Commission Executive Director Dawn Da Verney, Esq., said that information on the contest has been mailed to high school districts statewide. Rules and entry forms are available on the Internet at <http://www.state/mlk/essay.html>. You can also call 609-771-4134.

Recreation department offers two programs

PLAINFIELD—Signups for two Spring programs sponsored by the Plainfield Recreation Division are now under way.

The Spring golf program is open to city residents from age five up. Under the instruction of Ralph Wise, participants will have an opportunity to learn the basics of golf on six Saturdays, from May 23 through June 27, 1998, from 10 a.m. to Noon at Milt Campbell Field, East Third Street in Plainfield.

The girls' Spring tennis program gets under way Thursday, May 28 and runs five weeks, through June 25. Girls aged six to thirteen may sign up for beginners and advanced beginners classes. Classes will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday evenings at the tennis courts at Hub Stine Field, on Randolph Road, across from Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

For more information, call the Recreation Division at 908-753-3097.

Safe schools plan aired at public meeting

PLAINFIELD—Dr. Larry Leverett, Plainfield's superintendent of schools, took the school district's safe schools initiative to a wider audience on May 13 when he holds a public meeting at the Public Library.

"Safe and orderly schools requires the efforts and cooperation of all the parties involved—students, teachers and parents," Dr. Leverett said. "I am reaching out to the community to inform them of the steps the school district is taking to make the schools safe. At the same time, I want to engage the community in a dialogue that will allow them to express their opinions and give the district guidance as we continue to shape our safety initiative," Dr. Leverett said.

Students and their parents received a new discipline code on May 4 for the entire district that outlines the infractions, ranging from truancy to fighting, and the consequences that are being enforced.

Harrington skips McDonald to NBA draft

By g.r. mattos

Al Harrington, the 18-year-old high school senior from St. Patrick's High School in Elizabeth, is parlaying his success at the 1998 McDonald's All American High School Basketball game, and accolades as the Gatorade, Parade and Naismith National Player of the Year, into a career in NBA basketball. He recently announced his intention not to attend college and become available for the NBA draft.

Although he set his sights on the NBA this whole season long, Harrington announced his decision after discussing it with his mother, Mona Lawson, who initially felt he was being pushed by others. "Money was not a factor; I have everything right now. I am very comfortable with the decision I made."

"We went through a lot of different discussions," said Lawson, who was in favor of his attending college. "Ultimately, he promised me that he's going to get a degree in business and this is his goal, his dream. I'll be there for him all the way, 100 percent." Being there may even include traveling with him on occasion.

"I have a business manager who's going to go with me on road trips," Harrington said. "He's approved by my mother."

"His maturity level is high," him mom said. "Although not necessarily as high as it needs to be, I am hoping and praying that he will be able to mature as he goes along."

The director of player personnel for the New Jersey Nets, Dave Pendergast thinks Harrington has the highest basketball IQ of the high school players that have entered



At the recent 1998 McDonald's All American High School Basketball Game, Harrington, whose next stop is the NBA, scored 17 points and pulled down six rebounds for the East, assisting his team in their 128-112 victory over the West.

With the confidence and optimism that only the young can have, Harrington has faith in the promise of a bright future with the National Basketball Association, and a dazzling career. "I am a Christian," he said, "and I believe in prayer. When I pray on a situation, I put it in the hands of God." Having done just that in regard to this situation the day before he made the announcement, he said, "That night, I slept fine."

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State funds prisons over education

By g.r. mattos

but not new schools.

Saying that the current Administration is creating a "heavy and inept criminal justice system," Assemblyman William D. Payne, 29th District, recently questioned the commitment of the state of New Jersey to provide for an improved quality of life for all of the state's citizens.

Payne, a member of the Assembly Appropriations Committee, was a part of the recently conducted 1999 budget hearings for the Department of Corrections. During the budget hearings he observed the disparity between funding for human services and education department initiatives and the proposed budget for the department of corrections.

"The current administration has moved expeditiously in creating a new and improved criminal justice system, however it has failed to address essential issues of correction and rehabilitation, both preconditions for reform to take place."

Currently, the proposed corrections budget is broken down into three parts. The categories and amounts requested are: State Services, \$695,688,000; Grant Monies, \$61,514,000 and Capital Projects, \$11,824,000.

"It is tragic that our state would be willing to allocate money for incarceration and punishment and oppose a \$312 million recommendations for education enrichment and preventive programs," Payne said. "It appears that funds are readily available to build new prisons,

Recent reports regarding the dilapidated condition of New Jersey's inner city schools, with a population of mostly minority children, reveal increasingly worsened maintenance issues including sewage problems, flooded basements and leaky roofs. Noting that these conditions are in no way conducive to obtaining a quality education, Payne said, "Our children have been set up to fail, and we see evidence in the disproportionate numbers of these children from the disadvantaged school districts becoming inmates in our state prisons."

Offering the success of proven prevention and intervention strategies as possible solutions, Payne cites the example of "protection fields," a pilot program originating in Passaic County. This program offered an alternative to incarceration for juveniles which included basic skills education, group counseling and vocational training to reverse the direction of delinquent juvenile behavior. Payne strongly encouraged Corrections Commissioner Jack Tarantini to work with the Departments of Judiciary and Education to develop and replicate this type of programs in order to prevent juveniles from reentering the criminal justice system.

Payne is convinced that with stronger education and intervention programs the inmate population will decrease. "It's time to become serious about finding solutions to decrease the rising number of inmates in this state," he said.

Special needs schools finds unsafe conditions

NEWARK (AP)—Three-fourths of the 429 schools in New Jersey's special districts have substantial fire protection systems, and more than half also have deficient electrical wiring, inspectors found during the first state survey of structural conditions in the 28 districts.

Engineers and architects also discovered thousands of broken down and toilets, hundreds of bare roofs and heating and ventilating systems, even raw sewage in the basements of one Jersey City elementary school, according to the survey, ordered by the state Supreme Court.

"If you look real hard," Lee Heckendorn, an engineer who helped compile the study, told the newspaper, "you'll come to know how we hold our children hostage."

The \$250,000 survey lists more than 8,000 building code violations. They should get plenty of attention when the Supreme Court rules—possibly this week—on a Superior Court judge's recommendation that New Jersey begin a \$2.4 billion construction and renovation program in those poor schools.

Most of the schools have one thing in common: old age.

The survey notes 47 schools were built in the last century, and six of them, housing more than 3,000 elementary students, were built before 1863. Overall, students in the districts classified as "special needs districts" by the Supreme Court—more than one-fifth of New Jersey public school students—are twice as likely to be schooled in a building constructed in the 1890s as one built in the 1990s.

Those ancient buildings pose serious safety hazards for schoolchildren, including outmoded fire protection systems, flammable wood construction, windows now shut and electrical problems, according to the survey and school officials interviewed by the Ledger.

"You've got air quality issues, lead paint asbestos," said Perth Amboy Superintendent Jack DeTallo.

He cited particular concerns about one 127-year-old elementary school in his district set to be replaced next year.

"That 1871 building would go

up in three minutes," DeTallo said. "We cringe at the thought."

Besides the fire risk, the Thomas Mundy Peterson elementary school illustrates the problem of archaic design in many of the older schools. It has no hallways, so students going to the building's only bathroom must walk through up to five adjoining classrooms, often disrupting learning.

In all, the inspectors found 9,348 problem items—damaged or nonworking things—and 8,335 building code violations, although some of those violations are allowed to continue because they pre-date

state codes. Newark's 79 schools, which include eight of the state's 10 oldest, had a total of 1,764 broken items and 1,570 code violations.

State officials, and many local ones, insist the schools are safe, clean and comparable in education quality to those in New Jersey's wealthiest districts.

"They're old, but there very safe, and that's probably true for most buildings," said Peter Carter, superintendent in Irvington, where four of 11 schools had substandard fire-protection systems. "We have a very vigilant and thorough fire department that annually inspects

our buildings and the fire alarm systems."

The officials note that the \$2.4 billion construction program the Supreme Court is considering is based on recommendations the state made. In addition, over the last eight months many of the poorest schools have begun replacing aging boilers, making overdue roof repairs and putting additional classroom space, all with millions of dollars in special aid the court required the state to give them last year.

But some of the improvements are only cosmetic, experts argue, including fresh painting—some-

times done by parents and other volunteers.

At Newark's oldest school, the Harriet Tubman elementary school, for example, parents in January began holding protest rallies after students and teachers reported classroom floors were shifting under them. The 172-year-old building had been refurbished just two years ago, after four classroom ceilings collapsed.

Now school officials have hired engineers to assess the building, and they plan \$1 million in repairs this summer.

